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Date: July 22, 2007

To: Surface Transportation Board

From: David R. Peterson

Subject: Proposed Railroad Alignment from Levan to Salina

My personal vote would be for the **"no build"** alternative, because if I voted for the proposed railroad alignment as is currently being proposed, it would run through my front yard, and since there are better alternatives, I say take the more costly route to the West or don't do the project at all.

There is literally thousands of acres of agriculture land taken out of production every year in this country for shopping malls, subdivisions, parking lots, railroads, highways, etc. and one of our greatest challenges in the near future is going to be feeding ourselves.

The current alignment of this proposed railroad between Levan and Salina Utah will take out of production hundreds of acres of irrigated agriculture land, not just the 43.06 acres as indicated by the report, because the report only takes into consideration the 100' right of way, it doesn't consider the problem the farmer now has to change his method of irrigation to work around the railroad, if it is to costly that portion of ground may very well be left idle, taking it out of production, thus **taking out of production** hundreds of acres of irrigated agriculture land for this project.

The proposed berm with alternative C (75' high and 550' wide) could be eliminated if the operators of the proposed railroad were to keep additional engines available to help push the loaded cars up the grade, like they are doing on the rail that runs up Spanish Fork canyon, and it has worked very well for a long time now.

There is on the drawing boards a proposed Nuclear Power Plant in the Kanab Utah area, which is close to existing uranium deposits. With the Fossil fuel in the form of coal generating plants reducing our ozone and causing acid rain in Canada,

Nuclear power is in our future. I think it would be a poor decision to build a railroad primarily to transport coal, when coal is in fact on its last leg as a fuel source.

I just want to say that I think our Six County Association of Governments is quick to propose a railroad for economic development through my front yard, but they would all be singing a different song if it went through their front yard. And Malcom Nash has not been as honest and straight forward as he should be, he being the Manager so to speak for this project.

Finally I want to go on record as saying that if the proposed current alignment of the railroad from Levan to Salina Utah, goes through my front yard, I will force them to evoke eminent domain which will cause added cost and precious time to the project.

Signed: David R. Peterson

David R. Peterson  
1295 North 1200 West  
Redmond, Utah  
84652